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selectively controlling the original-reading device based on the received data transmission synchronization signal when the reproduction image data is selected; and selectively transmitting the received data transmission synchronization signal to the printer controller when the print image data is selected.

78. The method according to claim 77, wherein when there is a request to transmit the reproduction image data from the original-reading device to the engine controller while the print image data from the printer controller is being transmitted to the engine controller, said selectively transmitting step is interrupted and said selectively controlling step is performed.--.

REMARKS

The subject application is a divisional of Applicants' prior U.S. Application No. 08/901,286.

Claims 37-78 are pending, with claims 37, 40, 43, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 61, 64, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75 and 77 being independent. Claims 37-57 have been amended to even more clearly define the invention. Claims 58-78 have been newly added to provide a scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure.

Additionally, the specification has been amended to correct minor formal, grammatical and typographical errors therein. No new matter has been added.

In various aspects of the present invention, amended independent claims 37, 46 and 52 recite an image processing apparatus connectable to an external device and an original-reading device. In various other aspects, amended independent claims 40 and 48 recite a controller for an image forming apparatus connectable to an external apparatus and to an original-reading device. In further aspects, amended independent claims 43, 50 and 56 recite a control method for an image forming apparatus. In another aspect, amended independent claim 54 recites a reader controller for controlling an image forming apparatus. In each of these aspects, the original-reading device may either be incorporated into the image processing/forming apparatus or attachable to and detachable from the image processing/forming apparatus.

In various other aspects of the present invention, newly presented independent claims 58, 67 and 73 recite an image processing apparatus, new independent claims 61 and 69 recite a controller for an image forming apparatus, new independent claims 64, 71 and 77 recite a control method for

an image forming apparatus, and new claim 75 recites a reader controller for controlling an image forming apparatus.

Applicants submit that Claims 37-78 patentably define the invention over the prior art.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and request an early notice thereof.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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